

### **REMARKS**

Claims 3-10 and 14-16 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

### **DRAWINGS**

Applicants have attached formal drawings for the Examiner's approval.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner states that claims 3-10 and 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant(s) have rewritten claim 3 in independent form, and replaced dependent claim 13 with independent claim 16. Therefore, claims 3-10 and 14-16 should now be in condition for allowance.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7500.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 24 March 2004

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